

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, UN

SUBJECT: CONTACTS WITH THE MPLA

REF: STATE 86261

1. AMBASSADOR SHERER AND MISOFF MET WITH MPLA REP FIGUEIREDO APRIL 9 IN PRIVATE APARTMENT. SHERER EXPLAINED TO FIGUEIREDO THAT HE WAS MEETING WITH HIM IN RESPONSE TO MPLA INITIATIVE (USUN 1372) AND THAT HE HOPED FIGUEIREDO WOULD KEEP PRIVATE THE FACT OF THE MEETING. FIGUEIREDO, WHO IS SELF-ASSURED AND AN OBVIOUSLY PROUD NATIONALIST, REPLIED THAT HE WISHED TO MEET WITH ALL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING US. ANGOLA BELIEVES THAT US HAS IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN APPLYING PRESSURE ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, IN ORDER TO REACH NEEDED SOLUTIONS IN SALISBURY AND IN NAMIBIA. AMBASSADOR SHERER NOTED THAT THE US STRONGLY SUPPORTS MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AS SHOWN BY OUR RECENT VOTES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL REGARDING RHODESIAN SANCTIONS AND AID TO MOZAMBIQUE.

2. FIGUEIREDO MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTEL:

(A) ANGOLA IS A SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, WITH NON-ALIGNMENT WRITTEN INTO ITS CONSTITUTION. RECOGNIZED "94-96 COUNTRIES", ANGOLA HAS ITS HANDS OPEN TO THE WEST."

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"IT IS UP TO OTHERS TO RECOGNIZE THAT THESE HANDS ARE OPEN."

ANGOLA NEEDS A STRONG ARMY IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITS TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY. BUT CUBAN MILITARY " WONT BE THERE FOREVER." "AT A SPECIFIC TIME, THEY WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE." CUBAN PRESENCE SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHERS. IF US HAD HAD A DIFFERENT POSITION, MPLA WOULD HAVE WELCOMED US MILITARY. IT JUST HAPPENED THAT MILITARY TURNED OUT TO BE SOVIET AND CUBAN. BUT ANGOLA WILL NOT ALLOW ANY COUNTRY TO DICTATE WITH WHOM IT MAY HAVE DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THE ANGOLAN CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS FOREIGN MILITARY BASES.

(B) ANGOLA PURSUES A PLICY OF "GOOD NEIGHBOORHOOD" (SIC). THE MPLA SENT A MISSION TO LUSAKA AT ITS OWN INITIATIVE AND NOW IT IS UP TO ZAMBIA TO MOVE AS FAST AS HAS ZAIRE IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS.

(C) IT IS NOT TRUE THAT ONLY PORTUGAL HAS A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN LUANDA. CONSULS WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN FROM BELGIUM, THE FRG, AND ITALY AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND BEFORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED. THOSE COUNTRIES AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS HAVE PRESENCE IN LUANDA NOW AND FIGUEIREDO EXPECTS CONSULATES TO BE ELEVATED TO EMBASSY STATUS. ANGOLA SEEKS GOOD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WISHING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. MANY PRIVATE PROTUGUESE ALSO ARE TETURN-ING TO ANGOLA.

(D) FIGUEIREDO SAID HE HAD NOT READ BURCHETT'S MARCH 26 L'UNITE STORY OF HIS INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER LOPO DE NASCIMENTO. AMBASSADOR SHERER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SECTIONS QUOTED THEREIN DO NOT REFLECT ANGOLAN POLICY TOWARD US.

(E) IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR SHERER'S REQUEST, FIGUEIREDO SAID THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW-UP AND INQUIRE CONCERNING THE US AIRCRAFT REMAINING IN ANGOLA AND US LEASED PROPERTIES.

(F) AMBASSADOR SHERER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UPCOMING TRIALS WILL NOT STIR UP ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT IN ANGOLA.

3. FIGUEIREDO ASKED SEVERAL TIMES CONCERNING US INTENTIONS REGARDING OPEINING AN EMBASSY IN LUANDA AND OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD AN ANGOLAN APPLICATION FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. AMBASSADR SHERER REPLIED THAT OUR POSITION HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED BUT THAT WE WOULD STUDY WITH INTEREST ATTITUDES HE HAD EXPRESSED AS WELL AS FUTURE CONCRETE STEPS ANGOLA WOULD TAKE

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TOWARD NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND OTHER STATES. FIGUEIREDO REFERRED SHERER TO NETO'S SPEECH OF APRIL 3 AS BEING CLEAR STATEMENT OF ANGOLAN VIEWS.

4. FIGUEIREDO ADVISED THAT HE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE US FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. LUVUALU, HE ADDED, HAS RETURNED TO ANGOLA.

5. IN LEAVING, FIGUEIREDO EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION
FOR THE MEETING AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO ANGOLAN DIP-
LOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES," "SOON, RATHER
THAN LATER".
SHERER

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